

Warm wishes for winter grads

Commencement
has students
looking to future

BY JOSH MARSHALL

Winter commencement at Fitchburg State College may be a more low-key event than the larger graduation ceremony held each spring. But for the 494 graduate and undergraduate students listed in the program as receiving diplomas, as well as for their friends and families who packed the Recreation Center gymnasium on Jan. 25, this ceremony was just as meaningful as any spring commencement could be.

Although it was FSC's 112th annual commencement, it was only the third winter ceremony that the school has held. For the past three years the school has had a high enough enrollment of students to justify running a winter ceremony.

The ceremonies opened with the Innovata Brass Ensemble performing "Fanfare," and of course, "Pomp and Circumstance." In marched a group of alumni representatives led by James S. Hayden, president of the Alumni Association, followed by faculty members including Dr. John Paul, the 2007 recipient of the Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in College Teaching. Then, the students themselves marched in from the open double doors and found their seats.

There were the usual pleasantries before the soon-to-be graduates were handed their diplomas, including brief speeches from Dr. Ann Mrvi-



Students are all smiles as they take part in Fitchburg State College's third winter commencement ceremony, held Jan. 25 in the Recreation Center on campus.

ca, professor of communications media, and Eric Mayhew, student trustee.

"Short and sweet" was how Amanda Preston, a communications media graduate, summed up the proceedings.

In his address to the new graduates, President Robert V. Antonucci asked everyone to "remember the future."

He stressed the importance of continuing one's education as a lifelong endeavor and, while that topic was fresh, he took the opportunity to recognize the members of Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area, a group that offers classes for adults looking to further their education for the sake of education alone.

The ceremonies came to an end with the students marching toward the back of the gym, where they split off and found their friends and families or spoke with former professors.



For some it was time to gather with their family, for some it was time to meet up with friends they may not see again, but for all it was time to stop

and recognize an accomplishment. Now, when they walk the halls of Fitchburg State College, they can do so with a new title: alumni.



Charles D. Maner

College mourns loss of colleague

BY TIM MCCARTHY

In December 2007, the Fitchburg State College community suffered a tragic loss with the death of Chief Information Officer Charles D. Maner.

Maner, 34, of Lunenburg, died while visiting relatives in South Carolina. He leaves his wife, Windy Honeycutt, as well as a lasting legacy within the FSC Information Technology department and throughout the campus.

"He did a great job," President Robert Antonucci told the Fitchburg Sentinel after receiving the news of Maner's death. "He always had the best interests of the college first in his mind."

At Maner's Dec. 19 memorial service in Percival Auditorium, Antonucci said, "Charlie watched out for those he worked with; his wife, Windy; and the college."

In addition to Antonucci, several of Maner's colleagues shared their sadness at his passing and their joy at having known him.

"I lost a close friend and colleague," James Rogers of auxiliary services whispered while choking back tears.

He recalled that Maner had resolved any information-technology policy decisions by asking himself one question: "How will it move forward with the college's vision of learning?"

Cheryl Johnston, an information technology CIO, said she had hoped to one day be roasting Maner at his retirement party; she, too, had fond memories to share.

"Charlie taught me to embrace challenges and

Black History Month: Sharing the dream

BY SHANNI LAAKSONEN

February is Black History Month, but members of Fitchburg State College's Multicultural Student Services and ACCESS program couldn't wait to celebrate. So the group kicked off its month-long series of events early, starting on Jan. 22 with the "Living the Dream" celebration in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The point is to not just celebrate what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for on this one day, but to live his dream every

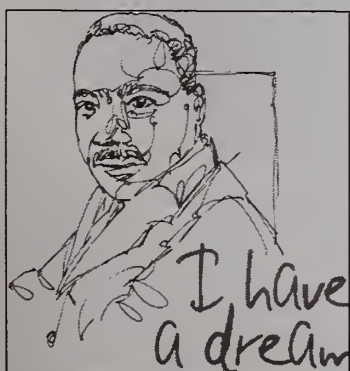


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day, in every moment," English Professor Chola Chisunka said as he began the program. "He (King) pushed an agenda

which transformed this society, and so we meet today to share his vision; let's keep King alive."

Noting that "truth chooses no color," Chisunka introduced the program's main speaker, Fran Thomas, principal of Memorial Intermediate School in Fitchburg.

The audience in Hammond Campus Center's Main Lounge welcomed Thomas, who shared with them an original speech aptly named "I, Too, Have a Dream" — his own take on the famous "I Have a Dream"

speech that King gave in April 1968.

"Bear with me as I take poetic license," Thomas began. "Many decades ago, Dr. King gave his 'I Have a Dream' speech, and since then, many things have occurred that he could not have foreseen, and not all of them have been fortuitous for black America. This, then, is how a portion of that speech might have gone, had Dr. King been able to look out into the future and see the

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Tutors do the write thing

TEALE KAROW-REYNOLDS

Ever been stressed out about an essay, and you just were not sure you were getting it? Ever wish you could get a little push in the right direction?

Professors are there to provide further instructions, but there's another option. Have you ever considered help from a peer tutor?

The Fitchburg State College Writing Center, located on the third floor of the Hammond Building, has a staff of students who are prepared to give you that little extra help you may be looking for.

The tutors are easy to relate to because they are all students at Fitchburg State College. They all have to buy books, write their own papers, and deal with everyday hassles.

What makes these tutors qualified is that they have outstanding grades in writing courses; they are trained para-professionals; and they have chosen to use that success to help others who may not have the same skills.

Ricky Hillson, a student at Fitchburg State College, has worked as a tutor for the past three years and said the experience has actually enhanced his own education.

"Working with a wide range



Students Katie Gowell and Alison Dassatti can be found in the Writing Center, on the third floor of the Hammond Building.

of students, who have their own unique skills and weaknesses, has allowed me to build a bit of a memory bank of what works and what doesn't within an essay," Hillson said.

"With the four years worth of papers filling my head, I find it increasingly easier to help people with their grammar/format issues, but also with the general flow of a

paper."

It is important to remember that the tutors are there to help guide students, but not to write their papers for them. Some students may feel nervous about asking for help, but student Kate Clark said she was glad she had decided to give the writing center a try.

"[It] was helpful because my tutor was much less intimi-

dating than professors can be," said Clark, a junior. "I felt more comfortable to make a mistake in front of the tutor."

The Writing Center is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will always be somebody willing to listen to questions and ready to give feedback.

College community mourns

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achieve more than I ever thought possible," Johnston said.

Faculty member Charles Roberts put on an exaggerated Southern drawl to say that Maner was "another Southern boy lost in New England."

He added, "I miss him. I miss him a lot."

Maner had worked at Mount Wachusett Community College before joining the FSC staff, and MWCC Vice President of Data Management Elaine Smith also came to the memorial service to offer her condolences and memories.

She said that his death had left her feeling "the kind of sadness [you feel] when a gifted, vibrant, and funny-as-hell soul vanishes."

She added, "Charlie will remain in our hearts as the real McCoy. He was endearing with his oh-so-Charlie traits."

Finally, Maner's wife offered her own comments, spoken by Antonucci, that Maner's guiding philosophy was to "Find something to be passionate about and give it 100 percent."

Among Maner's own passions were Apple computer products and winemaking.

Acknowledging his appreciation for fine wine, Smith said, "We expect to meet [Maner] on the other side with a chilled bottle of chardonnay."

Film puts focus on photographer

CenterStage at Fitchburg State College presents a double feature on Feb. 12, which includes a film created by faculty member Bob Harris.

At 2 p.m., a screening from The Boston Jewish Film Festival, "Marti, the Passionate Eye," will be shown in the Ellis White Lecture Hall.

The documentary follows New Zealand photographer Marti Friedlander, now in her 70s, as she reflects back on her legacy and the people who have inspired her.

The evening of Feb. 12 marks the return of @6:45, screenings of short films by communications-media department students and faculty at 6:45 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled screening. The series opens with "Thunder Mountain," a dirt-track car-racing opera by Harris, followed by a second showing of "Marti" at 7 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month

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state of black America today."

The speech might have addressed gang violence that turns blacks against one another, Thomas said, with words such as, "I have a dream that one day, black men will be incarcerated at unimaginable rates, and will literally shoot and kill each other over the color of a bandana, or to establish 'turf' in some of the worst areas of our greatest cities."

It was over a year ago that Thomas's speech first caught the attention of Jamie Cochran, coordinator of Multicultural Student Services/ACCESS.

She read it when it was printed as a column in the Fitchburg Pride, and soon called him to ask if he would share his moving work at this year's FSC celebration.

In addition to Thomas's speech, the celebration featured six student members of Multicultural Student Services/ACCESS.

These students read from original works written by fifth-



Step and African dance, such as that performed in the dance movie "Stomp the Yard," will be the focus of a program featuring demonstrations and lessons on Feb. 28.

through eighth-graders, stating what Dr. King's dream was, and what it contributed to their lives. "They have to live the dream," Cochran noted.

A resounding a cappella version of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was performed by FSC student Marcus Geddis, followed by the National Anthem.

Black History Month events at FSC also include screenings of the 1977 mini-series

"Roots," shown in six parts throughout the month.

This production was "the original blockbuster," according to James Plath in a DVD review for reel.com

"When the final installment of 'Roots' aired in January of 1977, some 130 million viewers - then, roughly half the entire population of the U.S. - gathered around their TV sets to watch," Plath wrote.

"Adapted from Alex Haley's

novel about his search for information about his African ancestors, the groundbreaking mini-series remains the most-watched dramatic show in television history. The series was such a phenomenon that the People's Choice Awards were presented to every individual cast member, while Haley received a special citation Pulitzer (of which only nine have ever been awarded)."

Screenings of "Roots," which were slated to begin Feb. 5 and 7, continue at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 12, 14, 19, and 21 in Ellis White Lecture Hall.

On Feb. 26 at 3:30 p.m., a faculty discussion on "How 'Roots' Captivated and Affected the Nation" will be held in Ellis White Lecture Hall.

A step and African dance show is scheduled for Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m. in the Hammond Campus Center Main Lounge. Demonstrations and lessons will be a part of the show.

For more information, contact Jamie Cochran in the Multicultural Student Services Office at (978) 665-3399.

Depressed? Counseling can help

BY LEANNE BELGIORNO

Suicide is ranked the third leading cause of death for 15-to-24 year olds, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Because of that fact, Counseling Services at Fitchburg State College puts on several programs regarding suicide prevention and awareness.

Familiarizing students with suicide prevention begins with the National Depression Screening in October during Mental Illness Awareness Week. Counseling services gives out surveys for students to fill out. "We look for symptoms of bipolar, depression, and post-traumatic stress. Anyone we're concerned about with a high score on the survey is asked if they have ever received treatment and if they would like to start," said counselor Elizabeth Fineberg.

Last year around 100 people attended the screening and about 15 people were referred to counseling, she said. To further accommodate to the needs of its students, Fitchburg State also provides an introduction at freshman orientation informing students about the available services.

In addition, the faculty and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WORLD LIFE CENTRE

resident advisors at FSC are trained to recognize the possible signs and symptoms of depression and suicide. Their training includes role-playing, information packets, and different ways in which to make referrals if necessary.

Senior RA Amy Burnett received this training, and said she feels relatively well prepared to respond to a potential suicidal situation. "If someone was giving me information to make me think they would in any way harm themselves,

I would call (with their permission, hopefully) Dr. Hynes' 24-hour cell to let him talk to them or me." Dr. Robert Hynes is the director of Counseling Services at FSC.

The office has someone available in case of emergency 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "I [would] always follow up with the resident and try to help them in any way," added Burnett.

As part of the training, Counseling Services also offers a presentation on the "Ques-

tion, Persuade, Refer" method. "We've added different groups to QPR training, including athletics, police, and of course the RAs and faculty," Hynes said.

According to the presentation, the "Q" means, "ask the question" – are they thinking about suicide? "We are required to ask every new student that comes into counseling services if they have previously thought of or are thinking about suicide," said Fineberg. The "P" means, "persuade somebody to stay alive and seek help"; the "R" means, "follow through with an effective referral."

The QPR method is used at various colleges and high schools throughout the United States.

Counseling Services' mission is taken seriously on campus: last semester, the president of FSC even provided a bus to attend the "Out of Darkness" community walk in Boston which supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

"I have been at Fitchburg State about eight years. Fortunately in that time we have not lost a student to suicide," said Fineberg.

"We hope to have it stay that way."

Opinion: If I could do it over

BY SHANNI LAAKSONEN

The first thing that I thought of when I re-entered college this past fall was, "Wow! I'm old!"

The last time I walked around this campus I was 22, young, anxious and confused. I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up. I was taking Early Childhood Education courses and yet I couldn't stand kids! Obviously, I was in big trouble.

So, naturally, I dropped out of school. I wanted - no, I NEEDED - money now. Screw playing footsie with first-graders, I thought. Besides, by the time I graduated from college, I would probably be, oh, 31 years old, still living at home with Mom and then I'd have to find myself a job, be responsible, be -yikes and yuck- a teacher. No way.

If only I knew then what I know now ...

Life after that was a "tragic-comedy." Not knowing whether to laugh or cry was my normal state of being. I took meaningless job after meaningless job. I had meaningless relationships. I drank myself silly, nightly. I ended up pregnant.

I was hopelessly desperate for life to be simpler. You know, what life was like as an undergrad living in an apartment with a bunch of roommates. That I hadn't considered that being simple at all at the time was my biggest regret. Now I had a child to support. So, I decided to become a hairdresser - of course.

Hairdressers tend to be high-drama and a lot of fun. I loved the smell of perms and acrylic nails, so I was right at home. My clients became my family, for better or for worse. It did, however, get really old after doing it for 11 years. Besides, I had that degree to finish up.

I knew that I didn't want to be a teacher of young, impressionable minds. After being a mom for 11 years I realized I knew next to nothing about how children think or act. So, what should I pursue?

One thing that I knew for sure: I am a stickler for good grammar. I'm not perfect, to be sure, but there's nothing like a misappropriated apostrophe to make me go a little berserk. And after working for more than one salon with a sign on the door that read "walk-in's welcome" (note the apostrophe), I knew that this meant it was time to move on. Sounds kind of snotty, but whatever. Here I am.

So, in the end, my love of reading and writing won out. I only wish that I had followed my brain, instead of my other body parts, a long time ago.

My wish is for you young, anxious, confused 18-22 year olds to stick with it now and get it all done and over with. Get the best grades that you can. Make and keep good friends. Have a little fun along the way. Your "real" life will be there waiting for you soon enough.

Athletes win in classroom, too

Continuing a successful tradition at Fitchburg State College, the Athletic Department recently announced that 36 percent of the college's student-athletes posted a 3.0 GPA or higher in fall 2007, while 22 percent achieved a 3.2 GPA or higher.

The following athletes made the Dean's List in fall 2007:

Abreau, James, Baseball; Almstrom, Julie, Indoor Track; Soccer; Amoako, Nana, Soccer; Bartholomew, Stevin, Cross Country; Beaulieu, Amanda, Cross Country; Boggs, Francesca, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Bonkowski, Wayne, Hockey; Bourassa, Alexander, Football; Cavarretta, Marla, Indoor Track; Clancy, Mary, Lacrosse; Connelly, Jude, Soccer; Corbin, Caitlan, Soccer; Cutting, Zachary, Football; Davenport, Julie, Field Hockey, Lacrosse; Davison, John, Baseball; Doty, Shaylene, Field Hockey; Ferrara, Marco, Soccer; Foltz, James, Football; Francis, Joshua, Football; Georgopoulos, Evan, Football; Godin, Tess, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Gorecki, Elissa, Cross Country; Goudreau, Danielle, Field Hockey; Gustafson, John, Soccer; Heming, David, Foot-

ball; Hutton, Andrew, Hockey; Jarvis, Stephanie, Indoor Track; Kaloustian, Robert, Hockey; Kerins, Christine, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Krause, Jessica, Softball; Kulpa, Zachary, Hockey; Love, Kristen, Basketball; Marchand, Stephanie, Field Hockey; Marcum, Daniel, Football; McConnell, Devan, Hockey; McDonald, Joshua, Basketball; McMann, Shawn, Football; Mongeon, Colleen, Lacrosse; Naro, Kiley, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Nichols, Heather, Cross Country, Indoor Track; O'Brien, Brittany, Lacrosse; Payette, Stephanie, Basketball; Pisanelli, Nick, Football; Robinson, Steven, Indoor Track; Rogers, Kelley, Basketball; Santaniello, Gia, Lacrosse, Soccer; Scaramellino, Michael, Baseball; Schaeffer, Kyle, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Schofield, Stephen, Hockey; Soldani, Kevin, Football; Stone, Bethany, Softball; Sullivan, Emily, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Swan, Emily, Lacrosse, Soccer; Tarantino, Daniel, Football; Tiernan, Aaron, Hockey; Torres, Brian, Basketball; Wong, Albert, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Wood, Timothy, Cross Country, Indoor Track; Wundt, Lauren, Lacrosse, Soccer.



Fitchburg State College's scholar athletes are proving that they're able to rack up impressive stats in academics.

Falcons shooting for home ice

BY ZACH KULPA

The Fitchburg State College ice hockey team is currently battling for an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Northeast championship.

Finishing the season within the top four teams of the standings will secure home ice, something the Falcons have not done since the 2002-'03 season.

The team is dominating at the Wallace Civic Center, only losing one game at home this season.

Much of the credit for the ongoing success has been attributed to the leadership provided by captains Stephan Schofield, Devan McConnell,

"Everyone is working very, very hard. More importantly, we are all playing together with one distinct goal in mind - home ice."

- Stephan Schofield

and Ryan Tierney.

"Everyone is working very, very hard," Schofield explained. "More importantly, we are all playing together with one distinct goal in mind - home ice."

The Valley View, Calif. native leads the team in three categories; assists, points, and points-per game.

On Dec. 7, 2007, Schofield joined an elite club, eclipsing

the 100-point mark by scoring two goals against Amherst College.

"I had been struggling a bit before that game, but luckily it all came together," Schofield said. "My parents were visiting from home and it was special that I could share the moment with them."

The road to this successful season has been long and difficult for him.

During the 2006-'07 season, Schofield severely injured his groin in the fourth game and sat out the remainder of the year.

Schofield received his diploma from Fitchburg State College in the spring of 2007 and decided to return in pursuit of an M.B.A., and one last hockey season.

"It was horribly difficult sitting out an entire season,

knowing I could do nothing to help the team," Schofield explained.

"I knew I had to come back for another season."

The Falcons seem tremendously pleased with his decision, having practically guaranteed themselves a play-off spot. The Falcons are now bearing down towards a top-four finish and home ice advantage.

With major playoff implications the Falcons will collide with the Suffolk University Rams on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. inside Wallace Civic Center.

Admission is free for students.



STAFF PHOTO BY TYLER KLASH

Located on River Street in Fitchburg, Traders of the Lost Arts may be the place to go when it's time to decorate that new apartment or dorm room.

Local shop's the place to stop for decorating needs

Many students have been fortunate enough to discover the wonders of living in townhouses, apartments and dorms. But living on one's own can cause a minor dilemma: How can a student afford to decorate and furnish that new home?

The answer may be as close as 696 River St. in Fitchburg.

It is the address of Traders of the Lost Arts, a store billed as offering "Unique Home and Garden Furnishings." It is actually so much more.

Traders of the Lost Arts has an eclectic selection of items for sale, with prices ranging from 75 cents for candles to thousands of dollars for solid wood desks. For \$10 you can even get a T-shirt with "THE BURG" in bold print on the front, a keepsake to help you remember Fitchburg State Col-

lege forever - or something to hang onto until it gets lost.

Located just 2.5 miles from campus, Traders is worth exploring, with five rooms spread over 12,000 square feet.

"There is something for everyone here," said Rosemary LeBlanc, the store manager.

Each room is overflowing with trinkets, lamps, baskets, and glassware. The walls are strategically decorated with mirrors, paintings, and framed pictures of all different sizes.

There are also collectible items, such as Red Sox and Patriots memorabilia (socks, 26-ounce mugs, frames, and watches) starting around \$6 and Vera Bradley handbags for around \$15.

Traders of the Lost Arts has something for any room in any

house, including natural bath soaps for under \$10 and bamboo kitchenware for under \$20. There are intricately designed quilts that cost \$45, and embellished jewelry boxes priced at \$20.

For anyone interested in hand-painted wooden signs, there are country-themed pieces like "What happens at grandma's, stays at grandma's" for \$8. There are also the vintage tin signs that display phrases such as "No Hippies Allowed," and advertisements for Coca-Cola.

In addition to decorations, there is a wide selection of women's jewelry priced \$5 and up, including tribal and costume earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

There are also hats, gloves, bags, and scarves, all beginning at \$10.

Buses take students for a ride - for free

BY ANDREW VAYO

Fitchburg State College students can now travel anywhere in the Fitchburg, Gardner or Leominster area for free.

The college's Office of Student Development is making this service available in an effort to promote environmentally friendly travel at the convenience of Fitchburg State College students.

"These buses are everywhere. I wanted our students to be able to take advantage of such a useful system," said Michael Makoski, assistant director of the Office of Student Development, who worked to bring Montachusett Regional Transit Authority service to the college.

Anyone with a Fitchburg State College ID card now has free access to the MART system, which is composed of 26 buses, 23 station wagons, 91 vans and two trolleys.

The buses run Monday through Saturday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., on 15 routes that include stops at Water Tower Plaza, Lunenburg Crossing and the Mall at Whitney Field.

While the MART service runs until only 6 p.m., the Office of Student Development has contracted MART to adapt to the college lifestyle a little better: from 6 to 9 p.m. a special MART shuttle runs for the college's use only.

On Mondays and Wednesdays the shuttle makes a continuous loop with stops at the college, Target, Water Tower Plaza, the Mall at Whitney Field, and BJ's Wholesale Club.

Tuesday and Thursday shuttles take students to Lunenburg Crossing, Market Basket, AJ Wright, and Blockbuster

Video.

In addition to offering convenient transportation, the MART system can also serve as an educational tool, according to Makoski. "This service will ensure that students know how to utilize public transportation when they graduate," Makoski said.

He added that if students begin relying more on public transportation, it will allow the college to become more environmentally friendly.

In the end, Makoski said, the decision to replace the office's old van system with the MART came down to a matter of student convenience. All MART buses are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, allowing accessibility for the entire college community.

The previous van system was not easily accessible to the physically challenged and even those without such challenges had complained of having a difficult time entering and exiting the vans.

Though a printed schedule is available at the Information Desk in the Campus Center, the service is hardly set in stone.

The office said it will keep the service under a watchful eye to make sure that students' needs are accommodated.

Makoski said that any suggestions or comments on how to improve the service are welcome.

"If you have any problems or feedback, please let us know," said Makoski.

"We will be making constant evaluations and improvements but please do not hesitate to let us know how we can provide better service."

Bootlegger: meals in the best of taste

BY KALEIGH PETERSON

A classy atmosphere and friendly service set the scene for an enjoyable visit to the Bootlegger Restaurant, located right on Lunenburg Street in Fitchburg.

The restaurant is decorated with a 1920s theme. The waiters and waitresses all wear black, and are very efficient.

When my family was seated at a table on a recent evening, our waitress Kristen came over immediately and got our drink and appetizer order. My mother ordered wine, starting around \$6 a glass; my father ordered a Grey Goose martini (martinis start around \$8) and I got a \$2 soda, which came with free refills.

The drink menu is enormous, including specialty martinis such as the Tiramisu Martini, and traditional favorites such as Cosmopolitans. They have many different kinds of white and red wines, which can be ordered by the glass or by the bottle.

As we waited for our drinks, we were served warm, soft French bread with a hard crust, perfect for dipping into the spiced oil provided.

For an appetizer, we chose Fried Veggies (\$8.50), which included a generous portion of friend zucchini, mushrooms, broccoli and red peppers. It came with a bread bowl containing a zesty horseradish dip,



STAFF PHOTO BY TYLER KLASH

and was served hot about 10 minutes after we ordered it.

It was delicious, and all of the vegetables were fresh and crisp as if they had just been plucked from a luscious summer garden.

We then proceeded to choose our dinners, which came about 15 minutes after we ordered them - very good timing considering that the restaurant was packed.

Each dinner comes with a choice of their award-winning clam chowder or the soup of the day, or a salad of fresh greens, tomato, black olives and onions.

My father chose the clam chowder, which was so flavorful and packed with clams that we didn't even have to wonder why it had won an award.

He also got the Fish & Chips, which was a huge piece of fried haddock that came with the best coleslaw any of us have ever had and a heaping portion of french fries, all for \$13.95.

The fried food was hot and fresh, not dripping with grease

or oily like you'd find it to be in most other restaurants.

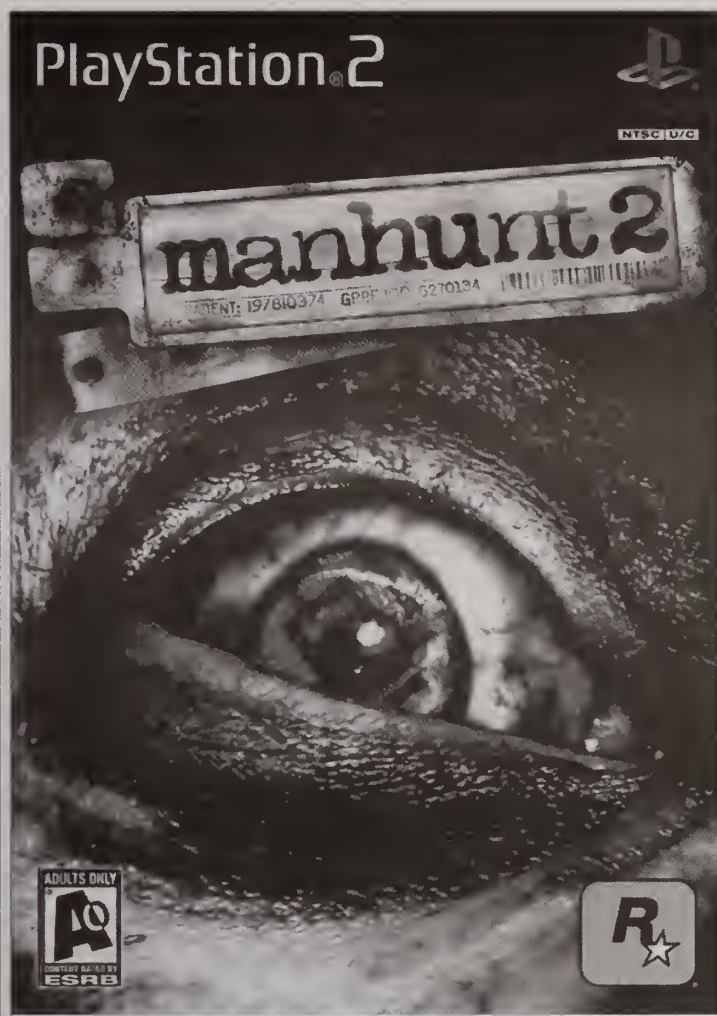
My mother ordered the Petite Filet Mignon for \$23.95, which is a 10-ounce tenderloin that comes with the option of specialty butter, sautéed onions, or sautéed mushrooms with no additional charge, along with the option of two sides (potato/pasta and a vegetable). She ordered it medium rare, and it came out perfect with just the right amount of red, and was accentuated by her baked potato which was cooked all the way through, and her fresh vegetables which were thickly sliced and devoid of copious amounts of butter.

I got the Chicken Stir Fry, which is chicken tenderloins, stir-fried vegetables (snow peas, onions, peppers, mushrooms and sesame seeds) all covered in a devastatingly delectable teriyaki glaze and served over hot, plumped-up rice.

It was a huge portion size and the vegetables and chicken were so juicy and tangy that I could hear my taste buds thanking me.

The Bootlegger Restaurant proved to be an excellent dining experience, and I would highly recommend it.

I give the service, drinks, food, bar and atmosphere; it is perfect for people of all ages, even the very picky.



It takes an adult to play Manhunt 2

BY JAMES TIRABASSI

It took five whole years after the release of the original Manhunt, a disturbingly dark action game, before videogame lovers were able to get their hands on the unexpected sequel. The delay was an unfortunate necessity for Manhunt 2 to be released on the Nintendo Wii, PlayStation Portable, and PlayStation 2 game consoles, due to a substantial amount of content editing necessary to achieve a rating of M (Mature) or less by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board.

The game's publisher, Rockstar Games, has long been a pariah of the ESRB due to their continued involvement in distribution of hyper-violent titles such as the Grand Theft Auto series and the original Manhunt game.

While Manhunt 2 was not significantly different from its predecessor in terms of violence, its unfortunate timing for release earned it a dreaded AO (Adults Only) rating.

The game play is very similar to that of the original Manhunt, but the plot is nothing of the sort. In the original title, players assumed the role of a death-row inmate forced to take part in a snuff film with the promise of deliverance for bloodshed.

Manhunt 2, however, eschews the grimy city streets and junkyards of the original for the clean and claustrophobic halls of a mental ward.

Danny, the main character, is a schizophrenic patient involved in an experimental project that has brought on the unfortunate drawback of letting him stand beside him-

self. His alter ego, Leo, forces him to perform atrocities in an effort to break out of a ward he's been committed to for crimes he cannot fully recall.

As with the original Manhunt, running at full sprint and hiding in the shadows is a more important part of the game than castrating security guards with pliers and unloading a handgun magazine into gibbering lunatics. Of course, violent confrontations are inevitable at times, though the game rewards patient and methodical attacks rather than spastic outbursts.

While the game's frantic stealth action (akin to games such as Splinter Cell and Thief) still evokes tension and a fun overall experience, the censorship implemented by Rockstar to satisfy the ESRB has taken quite a toll on the overall presentation of the game.

All of the stylish executions that tickled the id of many players are now only vaguely visible due to a red silhouette obscuring the screen during such violent murders. I can imagine this would truly upset fans of the Manhunt series, as it aggravated me as well.

Despite the censorship, the game still has its high points. The mounting suspense against what always appears to be unbeatable odds is always good for a thrill.

Compared to the original title, Manhunt 2 ups the difficulty ante further.

Overall, I would give this game a B rating because it was an enjoyably sadistic romp though the darker corners of video gaming with a sufficiently entertaining story to drive me further into the nightmare.

Pilgrim makes fine progress

BY JOHN DAABOUL

A few weeks ago, a friend and I were discussing whether there is one modern movie that's as definitive to our generation as, say, "The Graduate" was to young adults during the late 1960s. We couldn't think of a movie that fits that description - but then I turned to my friend and said, "You know, there is this comic"

The Scott Pilgrim series of graphic novels by Canadian-born Bryan Lee O'Malley began in 2004 with "Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life," and continues with one of the six planned volumes being released each year, the most recent being the fourth volume, "Scott Pilgrim Gets It Together."

The popular black-and-white comic once again follows its eponymous main character, an innocent and naive 23-year-old jobless slacker who spends his life practicing with his band (named Sex Bob-omb a reference to the living circular black bombs from

the Mario games), hanging out with his friends, and battling the seven exes of his love interest, Ramona Flowers.

Yes, he has to take on the seven former lovers of his girlfriend in order to date her in peace, and fight them in videogame and anime-styled battles with power-ups, sword fights and the briefest possible intrusion of realistic physics. The fights exemplify the comic's unmatched embodiment and appeal to the gamer generation, an age group usually stereotyped as violence-crazed teens. Reading the Scott Pilgrim series made me realize that in order to get gaming culture right, you need humor. Listen to people reminiscing about older games and you will notice a blend of enthusiasm and absurdity - something that O'Malley understands and absolutely nails with his comic. He manages to create a riotous work where game conceits are often employed, not just to give the reader a nostalgic thrill, but to express the theme

and move the plot forward; and it is done with more creativity and vision than I thought one man could muster. The use of RPG elements in the climactic scene where Scott "gets it together" resulted in one of the most magical moments I've ever read in a comic. "Scott Pilgrim Gets It Together" has a smoother, cleaner art style than the previous installments, and it looks wonderful; it seems that the fewer lines O'Malley uses for his drawings, the more expressive they become. Coupled with O'Malley's endlessly inventive storytelling techniques, this is the finest his artwork has ever looked. Overall, I'd say that the fourth volume of Scott Pilgrim is the best installment of a phenomenal series and probably comic of the year. Followers of the series will be hugely satisfied. I think newcomers will be able to understand it with the guide on the first page, but for the complete experience, Volume 1 is the place to go.

Students get sweet deal at Wachusett Mountain

BY STEVE SULLIVAN

Simply presenting a Fitchburg State College ID at the information desk on the first floor of the Hammond Building can get you a discount on lift tickets at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton.

Normally, a full Saturday of skiing or snowboarding at Wachusett Mountain will cost you \$49; the discounted tickets

cost only \$30 each.

"We are trying to help provide new activities and opportunities for students," said Hank Parkinson, director of the Office of Student Development and Recreational Services.

That's welcome news to local snowboard enthusiasts like Jim Rossborough, who said, "I wait all year for the

snowboard season to get here, and when it does I can barely afford to get myself on the lift."

Parkinson explained that he had been able to obtain the discount by buying 40 tickets in bulk as well as using additional student activity money.

There are no restrictions or limitations on these tickets;

they can be used weekdays, weekends, and nights. The tickets are good throughout the remainder of this season and all the way up until the end of December 2008.

Each student is allowed to purchase two tickets at a time.

"We are waiting to see how fast these tickets go, and if there is enough interest we can

offer more," Parkinson said.

Wachusett Mountain is only a 20-minute drive from campus. It offers trails from beginner to expert, as well as a terrain park with jumps, rails, and even a half pipe.

"I would definitely make time to get to the mountain if it only costs 30 bucks," Rossborough said.

Capt. Anna Morgan, MD
Brooke Army
Medical Center, Texas

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STAFF PHOTO BY JULIE MILLER

Amanda Roy admires the style of ink paintings by Vermont artist Leonard Ragouzeous, on display in the Campus Center Art Gallery.

Ink artistry looks larger than life

A series of ink paintings from Vermont artist Leonard Ragouzeous is on exhibit in the Fitchburg State College Campus Center Art Gallery through Feb. 18.

Ragouzeous, of Newfane, Vt., has created ink paintings of heads and faces in black and white.

The paintings are large pieces, ranging from 3 by 5 feet and up to 5 by 8 by 11 feet.

"Angie at 87" measures 9 feet by 5 feet tall.

"The paper I use is a synthetic paper called Yupo. It's very tough stuff," the artist said.

"I pin the work directly to the wall without frames.

"Most of the work I show at Fitchburg will be heads and faces. I would not call them portraits, though, because what - not who - the face represents is important," he said.

"The strength or success of the final image resides in its formal structure as well as in its ability to communicate.

"The degree to which either factor (form or content) domi-

nate or serve the other is a variable."

Ragouzeous is a former art professor at Iowa State University and has taught at the Castle Hill Art Center in Cape Cod, and Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

He received a bachelor of fine arts degree from City College of New York and a master of fine arts from Herbert H. Lehman College of the State University of New York system.

His work has been exhibited at colleges across the country, and in a number of juried exhibits.

Venues and shows that have hosted his art include the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, Va.; the Crowell Art Gallery in Newfane, Vt.; the Windham Art Gallery in Brattleboro, Vt.

Also, the national juried show "Art on Paper" in Annapolis, Md.; "Art of the State" at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg, Pa.; "Texas National 99" in Nacogdoches, Texas; and the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art Annual Juried Show in Wilmington, Del.



STAFF PHOTO BY JULIE MILLER

FSC student Alison Dassatti finds a piece of art that's worth pondering.

Vietnam veteran offers wake-up call

BY MEAGHAN BURKE

When college students take to the streets these days, full of emotion and energy, it usually means one thing: Their favorite sports team has won a championship.

Years ago, though, when college students took to the streets, their emotions and energy were used for something more meaningful: protesting the war in Vietnam.

Today's college students need to learn from those earlier times, according to Pat Scanlon, a Vietnam War veteran, musician and peace activist from Andover.

Scanlon's song "Where is the Rage?" also provides the name for a national educational outreach program sponsored by Veterans for Peace.

This effort is reaching out to a variety of organizations, including 500 college and public radio stations.

"Don't be so wrapped up in your own life. Pay attention to the world," Scanlon advises students.

Why aren't students protesting the war in Iraq the way earlier students protested the fighting in Vietnam?

"Don't be so wrapped up in your own life.

Pay attention to the world."

- Pat Scanlon

"Primary reason there is not rage on the streets is because there is no draft, just volunteer service," Scanlon said.

He explained that during the Vietnam War, young men could be drafted into service, whether they wanted to go or not.

Many students saw their friends, who were just like them, sent to fight and die in the name of their country.

Because they were so deeply affected by this, they joined together to do something about it.

Now, Scanlon said, the lack of a draft means people have little reason to protest.

He said this became obvious to him when he would go to his daughter Janet's diving meets at various campuses; the absence of student protests was hard for him to believe.

"I'd look when I was walking to the cafeteria to get food



In addition to being a self-proclaimed "Blue State Liberal" from Massachusetts, Pat Scanlon is a Vietnam veteran, an environmental activist, and a banjo-playing singer-songwriter.

... looking for any sign of peace activity," Scanlon said.

"Four years of looking and I didn't find a one. It is depressing."

In his view, many college

students are only concerned with going to school to get a job and finding out where the party is for the weekend. "There's little thought about the war," he said.

His song "Where is the

Rage?" asks society to recognize the reality of what is going on in Iraq.

It begins with a description of the way Americans proceed with their daily routines, only thinking about the war when it is mentioned on the news.

One very prominent aspect of Scanlon's message is the absence of concern, almost like the saying "out of sight, out of mind," and how it needs to be changed.

People are not really affected by the war unless they are personally connected to it, Scanlon believes.

So the lyrics from "Where is the Rage?" - "The honor guard stands proudly by the grave, Parents weeping softly bow their heads and pray" - can help listeners feel that personal connection.

Pat Scanlon is part of a campaign that focuses on educating the public about various characteristics of war.

All those who participate have a passion to share and spread their views.

To learn more about the Where is the Rage? Project, visit <http://www.patscanlon.com>.

'Boston Italians' worth talking about Engineering a big win

Author Stephen Puleo will discuss his latest book about Boston history at a New England Writers Series event at Fitchburg State College.

Puleo will present "The Boston Italians" on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Kent Recital Hall.

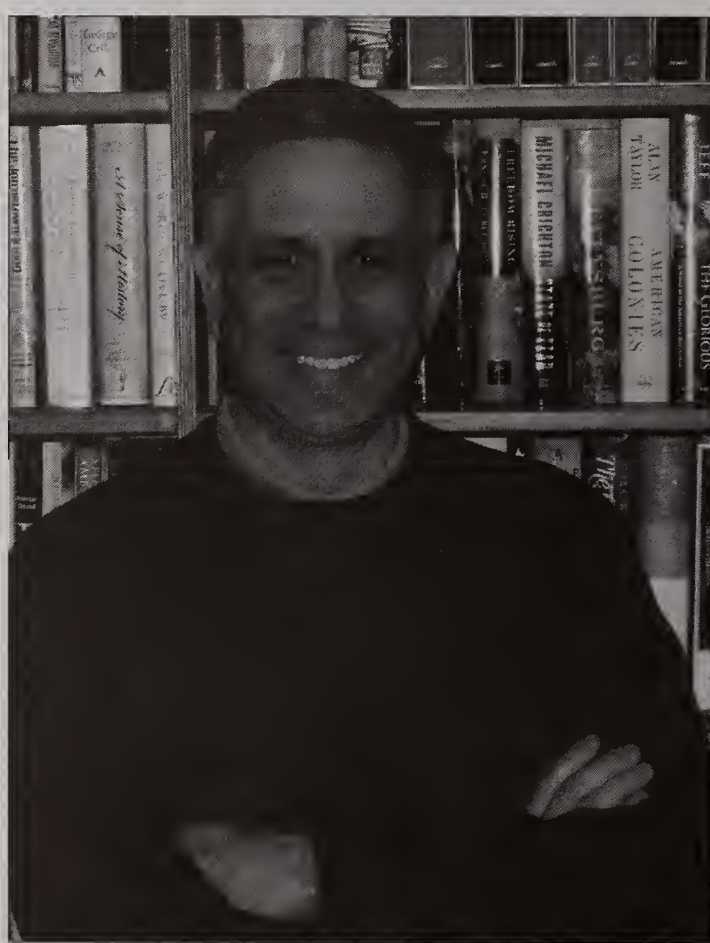
A book signing will be held after Puleo's discussion.

American Sign Language interpretation will be provided at the event.

The talk is part of CenterStage at the college, and is co-sponsored by the Center for Italian Culture. Additional support from the New England Writers Series comes from the Roberta Fitzmaurice Connors '63 Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public; \$7 for Fitchburg State faculty, staff and seniors; and \$5 for Fitchburg State College students and those under 18. For more information, call the Weston Box Office at (978) 665-3347 Monday through Friday 12:30-3:30 p.m.; information is also available by calling (978) 665-3709.

The story of the Boston Italians begins with their earliest years, when a largely illiterate and impoverished people in a strange land recreated the bonds of village and region in



Author and historian Stephen Puleo is set to give a talk on his latest book at Fitchburg State College.

the cramped quarters of the North End.

Focusing on this first and crucial Italian enclave, "The

Boston Italians" describes the experience of Boston's Italian immigrants as they battled poverty, illiteracy, and prej-

udice (Italians were lynched more often than members of any other ethnic group except African Americans); explains their transformation into Italian Americans during the Depression and World War II; and chronicles their rich history in Boston up to the present day.

Much of the story is told from the perspective of the Italian leaders who guided and fought for their people's progress, reacquainting readers with pivotal historical figures like James V. Donnaruma, founder of the key North End newspaper La Gazzetta del Massachusetts, now the English-language Post Gazette, and politician George A. Scigliano.

The book's final section is devoted to interviews with today's influential Boston Italian Americans, including Thomas M. Menino, the city's first Italian American mayor. The story of the Boston Italians is among America's most important, vibrant, and colorful sagas, and necessary reading for anyone seeking to understand the heritage of this ethnic group.

Puleo is a 2007 recipient of the prestigious I Migliori award from the Pirandello Lyceum.

A group of technology education students placed within the top three in three different contests during a recent conference.

The Fitchburg State College students attended the 2007-2008 Technology Education Collegiate Association Eastern Regional Conference, held in Virginia Beach, Va. The competition challenges students to demonstrate skills and acquired knowledge in the area of technology and engineering.

The Fitchburg State group placed first in the transportation contest, for which students built a car.

They placed third in the problem solving contest, which challenged them to use the engineering design approach.

Additionally, the group placed third in the lesson planning contest.

Fitchburg State competed against 10 college technology education department programs at the conference.

Members of the team include Leo Carbone, Brian Crepeau, Sean Coffey, Adam Finlay, Sean George, Chase Nickerson, Robert Lizotte, Jason Ciccarello, and Devin O'Neill.